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The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Letter dated 9 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement from the high-level meeting on the theme "Towards integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia", which was held on 30 April 2018 in Ashgabat (see annex).*

I would be grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 118.

(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the languages of submission only.

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Annex to the letter dated 9 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

Statement from the high-level meeting "Towards integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy"

The third phase of a United Nations counter-terrorism project was launched on 30 April 2018 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, at a high-level meeting organized by the Foreign Ministry of Turkmenistan and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, with the participation of Vladimir Voronkov, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, senior representatives of the Central Asian States and the relevant regional United Nations bodies. The project is a continuation of the counter-terrorism efforts of the Central Asian States and raises cooperation between the United Nations and Governments of Central Asia to a new level.

The United Nations Regional Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, joined subsequently by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, have been implementing a regional project for the period from 2010 to 2018. The purpose of the project is to help the Central Asian States develop a regional plan of action to implement the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Two phases of this initiative have already been completed. The first phase consisted of preparation and adoption of the Joint Plan of Action to Implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This document, the first of its kind, was adopted in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in December 2011 after a year-long process of consultations with experts and policy-makers.

The second phase of the project was focused on support for implementing the Joint Plan of Action to strengthen the counter-terrorism capacity of the Central Asian States. Efforts were made to promote dialogue with religious groups and involve the media in counter-terrorism, in addition to efforts on border protection and management to combat terrorism, on the prevention of radicalization and on countering the financing of terrorism. Seminars were held in a number of Central Asian capitals. In addition, the project provided support for the preparation of a summary table of counter-terrorism activities conducted in Central Asia by regional and international organizations. Assistance was also provided for the creation of a dedicated web page in the English and Russian languages, which contains input on the Global Strategy and the Joint Plan of Action. This second phase was completed in June 2017.

The new phase of the joint regional counter-terrorism initiative of the United Nations Regional Centre and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, entitled "Towards integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", provides for further strategic capacity-building for Central Asian States in the area of counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism, the sharing of best practices in the region and worldwide, and the enhancement of regional cooperation, including with the relevant international and regional organizations.

The project will be focused on shared priority areas, as defined by the Central Asian States and the United Nations during the high-level dialogue on counter-terrorism that took place in Ashgabat in June 2017, chaired by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, and on the basis of recommendations

adopted during the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June 2016.

The plan for the third phase of the project was approved at a meeting of Ministers and Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Central Asian States, which took place in Ashgabat on 11 December 2017, on the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

The core project activities will include targeted support to develop national and regional strategies for counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism, further capacity-building for Central Asian States in the priority areas defined in the Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia, and support for sharing experiences in the region and beyond.

In accordance with its mandate of regional and preventive diplomacy, the United Nations Regional Centre will jointly implement this initiative and support regional and cross-border cooperation in preventing violent extremism and combating terrorism in coordination with other international and regional partners active in this area in Central Asia.

At the present high-level meeting the participants confirmed their commitment to working with the United Nations to support implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia, including by completing the third phase of this unique regional project on counter-terrorism.